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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose grace sustains us, Your goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of these Pilgrim years. Today, give understanding, humility, and courage to our lawmakers, that they may be faithful stewards whose work honors You. Lord, make them conscious of Your overshadowing presence as they seek to produce legislation that will bless our land. May they commit their ways unto You who knows the road they take and can bring them forth as gold tried in fire.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the FAA bill. It is hopeful we will reach an agreement on the slots issue, which has created some controversy in this matter. The Senators involved, both Democrats and Republicans, have been working on this issue, and I hope we can have some agreement that will allow us to move forward to passage of this bill on Monday. This is the only issue that is holding up this bill.

There will be no rollcall votes today. The next vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3143, H.R. 4851, AND H.R. 4853

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading and I ask that the Chair proceed with that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3143) to provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a pay increase until the annual Federal budget deficit is eliminated.

A bill (H.R. 4851) to provide a temporary extension of certain programs, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4853) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United

States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these three bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4851

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have an issue and a problem, as we had a long debate dealing with unemployment benefits. We moved forward and passed the bill that would extend them for 30 days. That extension is going to run out before we complete the conference on this bill.

As a result of that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4851, which is an act to provide for a 30-day extension of unemployment benefits, COBRA benefits, satellite television, poverty guidelines, and flood insurance; that the bill be read three times, passed, and a motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, obviously we just received the papers yesterday and the indication about 30 minutes ago that this request would be made. It is Friday. Members aren't here. The leader is obviously not here, as explained by my presence.

Obviously, we will visit with our Members on Monday when everybody returns and determine what the appropriate way to proceed on this is. It doesn't expire until April 5, so there is plenty of time, and we will be happy to work with the majority leader to determine the best course of action to get this resolved before April 5.

I supported this extension last time, so this is necessarily obviously not based on a substantive objection but

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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